



## Disabilities activist

For nine summers during high school and college, **Sylvia (Sib) Nafziger (C 81)** **Charles** (pictured, right) worked at Spruce Lake Retreat in northeastern Pennsylvania. There she met individuals with disabilities, including members of Christian Overcomers.

A few years after graduating from EMU, Sib took a job in New Jersey as program director of Christian Overcomers. She soon learned about Joni and Friends—the international disability outreach of Joni Eareckson Tada (pictured, left). Joni, left quadriplegic from a diving accident, is known for her best-selling books and a movie about her life.

“Individuals and families with disabilities often feel isolated and exhausted,” says Sib. “My dream of bringing these families together was brought to fruition in 1991 at Spruce Lake Retreat with the first Joni and Friends Family Retreat.” Attendance this past summer was over 500 in two separate retreats. Seven other retreats were held in other parts of the country.

In 1992, Sib married Jesse Charles, who had been injured in a farm accident and left quadriplegic. The couple had a son two years later.

Last January Sib was named program director for the eastern Pennsylvania office of Joni and Friends.

*Reminder to the classes of 1981 and 1986: You have a reunion this year during Homecoming, Oct. 12-14.*

## 1980-89

**Ilene Bowman (C 80)**, after 20 years of work in the food service business, has taken a new job. She is now leasing consultant and marketing director for H.G. Smithy Co., working in its office in Falls Church, Va.

**Joseph Questel Jr. (C 81)**, Old Hickory, Tenn., operates a consulting firm, Questel & Associates, that serves clients in the publishing industry and focuses on sales, marketing, distribution and logistics. He has also just started a company called Independent Christian Catalogs, producing private-label catalogs for retail bookstores.

**Glenn Deputy (C 81)**, a Harrisonburg physician, is maintaining his athletic skills at age 42. He won the 46th annual *Daily News-Record*-sponsored men's singles tennis championship in June.

**Starla Byler (C 81)** and Randy Fogleman live in Belleville, Pa. Starla is a Title I reading specialist in the Mifflin County School District. She has a master's degree from Shippensburg University.

**Lorraine Stutzman (C 81) Amstutz** and family have moved from Quakertown, Pa., to Akron, Pa., where she continues to direct the Office on Crime and Justice for Mennonite Central Committee. Husband Jim became pastor of Akron Mennonite Church in August.

**Nyla Blosser (C 81) Barrett** and husband Patrick live in Akron, Ohio, where they founded Community of Christ in 1991. The congregation's focus is to care for people recovering from drugs, alcohol, sexual abuse and co-dependency. Nyla is also case manager for an agency on aging. In October she will speak at a conference for pastors' wives in Ukraine.

**Paul Graves III (C 82)**, Clayton, Mo., is a systems analyst for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

**Mary Esther Peckham (C 82)** and Gene “Spud” Hooley and their two sons are serving in Romania with Calvary Chapel Missions of Boise, Idaho. They work in an orphanage and with street children, helping to establish family centers.

**Larry Swartzendruber (C 83)** is development director for Iowa Mennonite School of Kalona, which is currently in a \$5-million fundraising campaign for a performing arts facility. To date the school has raised \$2.4 million and hopes to break ground sometime in 2002.

**Juanita Baer (C 83, S 88)** graduated magna cum laude with a doctor of pharmacy degree from Medical College of Virginia in Richmond

in May. She has taken a position at Williamsburg (Va.) Community Hospital.

**Kenton (C 83)** and **Dianne Shenk (C 86) Zehr** have lived in Rochester, Minn., for three years. Kenton is a cardiac surgeon at Mayo Clinic and Dianne is at home full time with their four children. Kenton works with a Russian surgeon and will make his third trip to Russia in October.

**Sid Frey (C 85)** is advancement director for Global Disciples Network in Millersville, Pa.

**J. William Atkinson IV (C 85)** and wife Cindy live in Linthicum, Md. He has been in the mortgage business for 14 years.

**Mark (C 85)** and **Susan Peachey** have moved to Scottsdale, Pa. Mark is pastor of Masontown Mennonite Church and runs his own painting business. The Peacheys served previously at Laurelville (Pa.) Mennonite Church Center for over 10 years.

**Carl Stauffer (C 85, G 00)** is a mediation trainer and consultant in South Africa, serving under Mennonite Central Committee. He has traveled to Angola, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Zambia and Guinea.

**Mike Washburg (C 85)** works in dispute resolution in the Ombudsman's Office at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Washington, D.C. He and wife Mary live in Woodbridge, Va.

**Harold Meyer (C 86)** is a nurse anesthetist at Doctors' Hospital in Massillon, Ohio. He earned a master's degree in nurse anesthesia last year.

**Celah Kratz (C 86) Pence**, Bridgewater, Va., directs the preparatory choir of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. Last April she directed four Harrisonburg school choirs in a choral festival at Harrisonburg High School.

**Michelle Letsche (C 86) Harris**, Columbia, Pa., is a stay-at-home mom who is home-schooling her two children. Her husband died of cancer in June 2000.

**Carol Grace Hurst (C 86)** lives in Crozet, Va., with husband Jon Nafziger and three sons. A licensed clinical social worker, she is currently the Charlottesville regional clinical supervisor for Family Preservation Services. The company provides in-home family therapy for seriously emotionally disturbed children, youth and their families.

**Pamela Lantz (C 86) Moore** lives in Naples, Fla. She has been teaching in juvenile detention facilities in different parts of Florida. She is a single parent of one son.

**Gary Gautsche (C 86)** moved in June 2000 to Santa Fe, N.M., where he is care manager with Elders Getting Information and Services.

[To Next Page](#)